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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

## Today's Table Of Contents

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### DOI In The News

- Washington Examiner: Interior Department Issues Millions Of Dollars To 'Protect' Historical Landmarks.
- New Orleans Times-Picayune: Driller Interest Is Tepid In Gulf-wide Oil And Gas Lease Sale.
- Missoulain (MT): A Dozen Missoulians Protest Zinke, Trump.
- New York Times: Birders And Naturalists Ponder The Fate Of The Greater Sage Grouse.
- CNN: Cabinet's Silence On Trump's Comments Disturbing To Agency Employees.
- Federal News Radio (DC): Interior Senior Executives Left In The Dark Amid Reorg, Reassignments.
- CBS News: Months Into Office, Trump Has Yet To Appoint Key Agency Watchdogs.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Mead On Turning Down Trump Job: 'I Made The Right Choice'.

- E&E Publishing: Climate Advisory Group Died Quietly.
- Missoula Current (MT): UM Accepted As Partner In Northwest Climate Science Center Program.
- U.S. News & World Report: Commissions Sued After Meetings With Interior Secretary.
- Duluth (MN) News Tribune: Comment Period Closes On Mining Moratorium.
- Augusta (VA) Free Press: Additional Coverage: Virginia To Receive \$1 Million In Federal Funding For Wildlife Conservation Projects.
- Los Angeles Times: Long-term Commitment To California's Water Resources Is Essential.
- The Hill: Lawmakers Should Stop Looking To The Energy Sector For More Federal Revenue.

### **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

- Eastern Pequots Call State's Third-casino Law 'Unconstitutional'.

### **Bureau Of Land Management**

- KTOO-FM Juneau (AK): There's A New Arctic Drilling Battle Brewing...and It's Not In ANWR.
- St. George (UT) News: Stewart Introduces Bill To Protect Sage-grouse And Mule Deer Habitat.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Judge Delays Ruling On Challenge Of Red Rock Canyon Development.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Jury In Bunkerville Standoff Case To Resume Deliberations Monday.

### **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

- Governor Urges Trump To Drop Virginia From Offshore Drilling Plan.
- Desperately Seeking Zinke's Attention.
- Interior Department Poised To Approve Arctic Oil-Drilling Island.

### **Bureau Of Reclamation**

- With A Crucial Vote Nearing, Gov. Jerry Brown's Delta Tunnels Project Is Struggling To Win Over Some Agricultural Groups.
- Water Authority To Fund Conservation Work In Mexico.

### **Fish And Wildlife Service**

- KUNC-FM Greeley (CO): Proposed Rocky Flats Visitor's Center Renews Debate Over What To Do With Former Nuclear Site.
- Havasu (AZ) News-Herald: New Refuge Boating Plan Receives Positive Feedback.
- Biddeford-Saco-OOB (ME) Courier: Biddeford Officials Sell Land Off Mile Stretch Road.
- Del Rio (TX) News Herald: Hornshell Mussel Endangered Designation On Hold.

### **National Park Service**

- Port Clinton (OH) News Herald: Put-In-Bay Township Park District To Receive \$325,000 From Interior.
- Bethesda (MD) Magazine: Swains Lockhouse In Potomac To Be Renovated With National Park Service Grant.
- WTTG-TV Washington: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Vandalized.
- Washington Times: Cities Brace For White Nationalist Rallies Post-Charlottesville.
- U.S. News & World Report: Confederate Monuments To Stay At Gettysburg Battlefield.
- U.S. News & World Report: Grand Teton Park To Outshine Bigger Yellowstone For Eclipse.
- Finger Lakes (NY) Times: New Citizens Taking Oath At Women's Rights National Historical Park In Seneca Falls.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Severed Septic Line Sparks Closure Of Jones Hole Creek In Dinosaur National Monument.
- Gwinnett (GA) Daily Post: National Park Service Considering Dismantling Part Of Bridge At Settles Bridge Park In Response To Recent Drownings.
- Coastal Point (DE): Dinker-Irvin Cottage Listed On National Register Of Historic Places.
- Washington Post: Additional Coverage: U.S. Parks End Bottled-Water Ban.
- Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel: Eclipse, Wildfires Bring Focus To Smokies' Fragility.

### **Office Of Insular Affairs**

- Associated Press: Tillerson, Mattis: Military Options Remain For North Korea.
- Department Of Interior Helps With Transition.

### **US Geological Survey**

- San Francisco Chronicle: Beach Erosion A Growing Threat On California Shoreline.

- Minneapolis Star Tribune: Scientists Work On Math Model To Better Predict Spread Of CWD.

### Top National News

- NBC: Trump Criticizes Removal Of "Beautiful Statues And Monuments."
- Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press: Corker: Trump Yet To Demonstrate Necessary "Stability," "Competence."
- Washington Post: Trump Offers Sympathy, US Help In Wake Of Deadly Terror Attack In Barcelona.
- New York Times: Democratic Senators Eyeing Tax Reform As Opportunity To Push Carbon Tax.
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: Paulsen, Brady Make Case For Tax Reform.

### Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
  - "The Justice Department Goes Fishing In DreamHost Case."
  - "Reset The Clock For Malpractice Suits."
- Washington Post.
  - "It's Time For A Full And Fair Reckoning With Confederate Statues."
  - "Trump Needs To Stop Sabotaging Obamacare-- Before It's Too Late."
  - "Burma Covers Up Its Systematic Abuse Of A Minority Group."
- Wall Street Journal.
  - "All The President's Advisers."
  - "This Times, Terror Hits Spain."
  - "Refighting The Civil War."

### Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

### Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

### Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

## DOI In The News

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### Interior Department Issues Millions Of Dollars To 'Protect' Historical Landmarks.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/17, Siciliano) reports that the Interior Department announced Thursday "that it is sending tens of millions of dollars in historic preservation grants to help states preserve 'our national heritage and history.'" Deputy Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt said, "These grants highlight the department's and the National Park Service's commitment to preserving our national history and heritage. Through valuable partnerships, we are able to help communities and protect the diverse historic places, culture and traditions unique to our country for future generations." The funding included "\$21 million in grants, representing a total of \$58 million awarded to every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and partnering nations, according to the agency." The department "pointed out that the funding was derived from fees paid to the Interior Department from oil companies' offshore federal production leases."

[WLTZ-TV](#) Columbus, GA (8/17) reports that Bernhardt "announced the distribution of \$368,684 in historic preservation grants to Alabama as well as \$23,379 for historic preservation grants to a Tribal Historic Preservation Office in the state."

### Driller Interest Is Tepid In Gulf-wide Oil And Gas Lease Sale.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (8/17) reports in continuing coverage that oil and gas companies offered \$121.1 million in high bids for 90 tracts in the Gulf of Mexico. Companies bid on far fewer tracts than the previous sale in March, largely because of the weak price environment.

[World Oil](#) (8/17) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke discussed the sale and said, "The path to American energy dominance starts in the Gulf, and the hard work of rig and platform workers, support staff onshore, and the industries that support them cannot go unnoticed. ... [Yesterday]'s results will help secure their jobs and create more good paying jobs while generating \$121 million in revenue to fund everything from conservation to infrastructure."

[UPI](#) (8/17, Graeber) reports that most of the bids were for deepwater areas, despite the effort to attract companies to tracts in shallow waters. The [Daily Caller](#) (8/17, Pearce) reports acting assistant secretary for Lands and Minerals Management Katharine MacGregor said, "Through regulatory streamlining, expanded offshore and onshore opportunities and great cooperation with our stakeholders, we expect to encourage competition while continuing to receive a fair and equitable return on oil and gas resources."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet](#) (8/17, Magill), the [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (8/17, Magill), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (8/17, Davis), [Law360, 24/7 Wall Street](#) (8/17, Ausick), and the [Aviation International News](#) (8/17, Huber).

### **A Dozen Missoulians Protest Zinke, Trump.**

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (8/17, Kato) reports that "with signs with slogans like 'Zinke is Stinke' and 'Zinke Public Lands Enemy #1,' a dozen demonstrators gathered in downtown Missoula on Thursday in protest against the Secretary of the Interior and President Donald Trump." Secretary Ryan Zinke's Interior Department is "scheduled to issue recommendations to the president next week regarding the designation of 27 national monuments, following an executive order earlier this spring to review them."

Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (8/17, James), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (8/17, James), the [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Edhat](#) (8/17, Hintzen), and [The Atlantic](#) (8/17, Meyer).

**Gazette Opinion: No Monumental Changes.** In an editorial, the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/17) urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to not make to recommendations for "possible reductions or elimination of protections for 27 federal areas that previous presidents set aside as treasured national monuments." The paper notes that "Zinke has declared himself a Teddy Roosevelt Republican." The Gazette urges Zinke to "take that president's advice and strongly recommend that Donald Trump let our national monuments be."

Additional commentary appeared in the [Huffington Post](#) (8/17, Bryce, Contributor), the [San Gabriel Valley \(CA\) Tribune](#) (8/17), the [Whittier \(CA\) Daily News](#) (8/17), the [Pasadena \(CA\) Star-News](#) (8/17), and [SNEWS](#) (8/17, Cloos).

### **Birders And Naturalists Ponder The Fate Of The Greater Sage Grouse.**

The [New York Times](#) (8/18, Axelson) reports that "a revision to the wildlife management plans for sage grouse in the West recently announced by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke may mean more oil and gas drilling near sage grouse leks soon – and a new round of industry-versus-conservationist skirmishes over an issue that many thought had been settled." On June 8, Zinke "announced that the sage grouse plans will be reviewed to 'protect sage grouse and its habitat while also ensuring conservation efforts do not impede local economic opportunities' to follow through on President Trump's executive order on energy independence." On August 7, Zinke "issued the order to revise the sage grouse plans, including modifying the policy on fluid-mineral leasing and development."

**The Feds Should Stop Meddling With Colorado's Sage Grouse.** In an op-ed for the [Denver Post](#) (8/17, Schafer), Luke Schafer, the West Slope director for Conservation Colorado, criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for going "against the wishes of our Gov. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat, and Wyoming's Gov. Matt Mead, a Republican, in announcing that he is taking steps to unravel the collaborative plans put in place in 2015 to protect the Greater sage grouse." According to Schafer, "these plans involved years of Colorado-style hard work, in which ranchers, conservationists, land managers, and the oil and gas industry came together to create plans that saved the sage grouse from being listed on the Endangered Species Act." Schafer asserts that "Zinke's attempts to undermine the 2015 sage grouse plans are an affront to Westerners who value collaboration, counterproductive to the cause of saving sage grouse, and antithetical to established science." He concludes that "Zinke is snatching defeat from the jaws of victory by undermining all of our collective hard work and placing the bird back under the threat of the need of an Endangered Species Act listing."

### **Cabinet's Silence On Trump's Comments Disturbing To Agency Employees.**

[CNN](#) (8/17, Marsh, Wallace) reports that "days have passed since President Donald Trump equated white supremacists and neo-Nazis with counterprotesters at a Charlottesville, Virginia rally that sparked violence over the weekend, the President's words are still rippling across the federal workforce at government agencies." Some career employees in cabinet agencies are "deeply disturbed by silence or what they perceive as weak statements, from the Cabinet members who lead their agencies." Notably, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has issued a

statement saying, “The racism, bigotry and hate perpetrated by violent white supremacist groups has no place in America. It does not represent what I spent 23 years defending in the United States military and what millions of people around the globe have died for.” The statement added “We must respond to hate with love, unity and justice. I fully support President Trump and Attorney General Sessions in uniting our communities and prosecuting the criminals to the fullest extent of the law.”

### **Interior Senior Executives Left In The Dark Amid Reorg, Reassignments.**

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (8/17, Ogrysko) reports that “some of the Interior Department’s longest-tenured and most experienced career executives say they’re feeling undervalued and overlooked as the agency begins a major effort to restructure and reorganize.” The article notes that “their criticisms come as Interior political leadership charges forward with a major reorganization effort that includes the reassignment of 30-to-50 senior executives back in June and another round of job transfers expected in the next few weeks.” Several Interior sources said “that the most recent round of reassignments created a ‘chilling effect’ in the department, and they fear how the reorganization effort will impact the workforce when the department’s executive cadre has had ‘absolutely no involvement whatsoever’ in crafting the agency’s plans.”

### **Months Into Office, Trump Has Yet To Appoint Key Agency Watchdogs.**

[CBS News](#) (8/17, Watson) reports that President Trump has “only nominated one watchdog to fill the 13 current vacancies among inspectors general, even though he pledged to ‘drain the swamp’ during his campaign.” Trump’s “inaction...has some government integrity groups concerned.” The article notes that the Interior Department “hasn’t had a permanent IG since February 2009.”

### **Mead On Turning Down Trump Job: ‘I Made The Right Choice’.**

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (8/17, Rosenfeld) reports that Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead “said he has no regrets about withdrawing his name from consideration for Interior Secretary in the Trump administration last year.” In an interview, “Mead said that in addition to a number of standard considerations, such as not wanting to relocate his family to Washington, D.C., he was also concerned about handling potential policy differences with President Donald Trump.” Mead said, “I have some disagreements with President Trump and I’m sure in Interior ... I would feel strongly about certain areas and I don’t know how — trying to watch it from afar — how that works out when those disagreements come up.” According to the article, “Mead was contacted by Trump transition officials last fall about whether he was interested in the Interior job and acknowledged that it was far from certain he would have been offered the job if had been kept his name in the running.”

### **Climate Advisory Group Died Quietly.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (8/17, Doyle, Patterson) reports that the Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science, which was established in 2013, is “dead for now,” and “if it’s revived by the Trump administration, it will likely have a new mission.” According to Interior officials, “the panel has been stalled as the new administration considers what to do with advisory groups more broadly.” However, “if it’s revived, Interior officials signaled it will have fewer members and a different objective.”

### **UM Accepted As Partner In Northwest Climate Science Center Program.**

The [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (8/17) reports that “as a result of a rigorous scientific review,” the Interior Department accepted University of Montana “as an official partner in the Northwest climate science consortium, along with Boise State, Washington State and Western Washington universities.” Tom DeLuca, dean of the College of Forestry and Conservation at UM, “said Thursday that the program and its partners look to develop measurable science to protect natural resources from climate change.” DeLuca said, “Our college leverages global and regional climate information for specific sectors – from local and regional partnerships with food producers, to global modeling efforts. This is a great opportunity for us to help stakeholders adapt climate products to their needs through the center.”

### **Commissions Sued After Meetings With Interior Secretary.**

The [AP](#) (8/17) reports that “a Utah group is suing two county commissions after private meetings with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.” The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance’s lawsuit “against Kane and Garfield’s commissions claims their May 10 meetings with Zinke violated open meeting

laws because they were not posted.” Garfield County Commission Chairman Leland Pollock called the allegations in the lawsuit “frivolous.”

### **Comment Period Closes On Mining Moratorium.**

The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (8/17, Erickson) reports that “Thursday marked the last day of an extended public comment period for people to weigh in on a U.S. Forest Service’s proposal to halt mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for at least two years, and conduct an environmental review of potential copper-mining impacts.” According to the article, “upon completion of the environmental impact statement — barring other action to overturn the moratorium — Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will make the call on whether or not the two-year halt on mining should extend to 20 years.”

### **Additional Coverage: Virginia To Receive \$1 Million In Federal Funding For Wildlife Conservation Projects.**

Additional coverage of the funds awarded through the State Wildlife Grants and Tribal Wildlife programs was provided by the [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (8/17) and [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (8/17, Desroches).

### **Long-term Commitment To California’s Water Resources Is Essential.**

In commentary for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/17, Friedman), California Assemblymember Laura Friedman writes that “to protect both water and National Parks and in response to increasing threats to the California desert’s national parks, national monuments and groundwater supplies,” she recently introduced Assembly Bill 1000 – the California Desert Protection Act. According to Friedman, the legislation “strengthens environmental protections in the ecologically fragile Mojave Desert and ensures that future water transfers from groundwater basins underlying desert lands do not adversely affect the region’s natural or cultural resources, including groundwater resources or habitat.” Friedman points to “a series of direct challenges from the Trump administration toward existing federal protections to the California desert,” including a water project proposed by Cadiz Inc., as an impetus of the bill.

### **Lawmakers Should Stop Looking To The Energy Sector For More Federal Revenue.**

Independent Institute research director and Utah State University Huntsman School of Business J. Fish Smith Professor in Public Choice William F. Shughart II argues in [The Hill](#) (8/17, Shughart) “Pundits Blog” that “a remarkable rise in America’s energy production and the creation of more than one million jobs” has presented a new challenge as oil and natural gas companies wrestle to hold on to those gains. He argues that the progress won “thanks to hydraulic fracturing” could “be cut short, however, if Congress singles out the industry by removing certain provisions of the tax code.” He urges Congress and the White House to “show an inclination to raise taxes on energy companies” as “raising effective tax rates on the oil and gas industry by denying credits and deductions available to most other businesses could send us down the wrong path, and it might not be possible to correct course fast enough.”

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

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### **Eastern Pequots Call State’s Third-casino Law ‘Unconstitutional’.**

The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (8/17, Hallenbeck) reports that “the Eastern Pequot Tribe on Thursday decried Gov. Dannel P. Malloy’s signing in June of legislation granting the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes the exclusive right to build the state’s third casino on non-reservation land in East Windsor.” In a statement, the Easterns claim Malloy’s decision to sign Public Act 17-89 is “cloaked in hypocrisy and is unconstitutional.” The statement “affirms legal arguments raised by other third-casino opponents – MGM Resorts International and the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation – who have claimed the legislation grants the Mashantuckets and the Mohegans ‘an unfair monopoly on commercial gaming.’”

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

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### **There’s A New Arctic Drilling Battle Brewing...and It’s Not In ANWR.**

[KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (8/17, Harball) reports that “a series of promising oil discoveries and a



recent move” by the Trump Administration mean the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska is “about to get a lot more controversial.” The article notes that “at an oil and gas conference in Anchorage this May, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed an order that, among other things, requires a review of the Obama administration’s plan for managing NPR-A.” The article says that “it wasn’t clear exactly what that meant until last week, when the Interior Department sent out a call asking which parts of the Reserve should be opened up to oil and gas leasing.”

### **Stewart Introduces Bill To Protect Sage-grouse And Mule Deer Habitat.**

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (8/17) reports that Reps. Chris Stewart and Scott Tipton “have introduced the Sage-Grouse and Mule Deer Habitat Conservation and Restoration Act, a bill that would streamline the approval process for vegetation management projects to protect or restore the habitat of the sage-grouse and mule deer.” According to Stewart, the legislation would “allow the Bureau of Land Management to quickly engage in habitat restoration and proactive vegetation management projects to protect the species and improve ecological conditions.”

### **Judge Delays Ruling On Challenge Of Red Rock Canyon Development.**

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/17, Davidson) reports that Clark County District Court Judge Jerry Wiese “declined to rule from the bench Thursday on motions to dismiss a lawsuit challenging plans to build more than 5,000 homes atop a hill bordering the Red Rock National Conservation Area.” Wiese told lawyers “representing Clark County, mining company Gypsum Resources and environmental nonprofit Save Red Rock that he will make a ruling within one month.” According to the article, “the judge appeared hesitant whether to let the case continue because Gypsum Resources is several steps from being able to break ground.” First, the company still “needs permission from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to build a road that would connect the development to state Route 160 on federal land.”

### **Jury In Bunkerville Standoff Case To Resume Deliberations Monday.**

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/17, Ferrara) reports that “after more than two days of deliberation, jurors are expected to return Monday in the retrial of four men facing federal charges in the 2014 armed standoff in Bunkerville.” They were “sent home at about 4:30 p.m. Thursday and are expected to resume deliberations Monday morning, defense attorneys said.”

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

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### **Governor Urges Trump To Drop Virginia From Offshore Drilling Plan.**

[Reuters](#) (8/17, Gardner) reports Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe is urging the Trump Administration to exclude the state from a federal offshore oil and gas drilling plan, over concerns about revenue sharing and environmental issues. In a letter sent to Kelly Hammerle, the national program manager of the BOEM, McAuliffe said he could not trust President Trump to share revenues because he had proposed rescinding the revenue sharing program with Gulf Coast states where drilling already occurs. He also said the Administration is also working to cut funding “from the very agencies that would be charged with protecting Virginia’s coastal environment in the event that exploration went forward.”

[The Hill](#) (8/17, Henry) reports McAuliffe had previously said he could support offshore drilling if the federal government expanded a royalty sharing program that would supply coastal states with the revenue gained from drilling operations. [E&E Publishing](#) (8/17) reports executive director Miles Morin of the Virginia Petroleum Council, a division of the API, said that “shutting Virginia off to this economic engine would be short-sighted.”

Also reporting the [AP](#) (8/16), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (8/17), the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (8/17, Mayfield), [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (8/17, Holtzclaw), the [Roanoke \(VA\) Times](#) (8/17, Zullo), and [WTKR-TV Norfolk \(VA\)](#) Norfolk, VA (8/17).

**Connelly: West Coast Governors Tell Trump: No Oil, Gas Leases Off Our Coast.** Joel Connelly writes in his column for the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (8/17, Connelly) that the governors of California, Oregon and Washington told Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke that oil and gas leasing must not be allowed in the sensitive marine waters off the West Coast. Govs. Jerry Brown, Kate Brown and Jay Inslee wrote, “The people of our states understand that the looming catastrophe of unabated climate change requires our nation to move away from unfettered fossil fuel consumption and towards a more prosperous, sustainable and secure clean energy economy.” They argue, “A sizeable spill anywhere along our shared coast would have a devastating impact

on our population, recreation, natural resources and our ocean and coastal-dependent economies.”

***Christie Administration Opposes Trump’s Plans For Offshore Drilling In Atlantic Ocean.*** [Politico](#) (8/16, Landeragan) reports in continuing coverage that the Christie Administration submitted comments to the BOEM opposing President Trump’s plans to permit offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin said that offshore drilling would pose too many “unacceptable risks” to the environment, the public’s safety and the state’s economy. He wrote, “New Jersey has consistently and steadfastly opposed any industrialization of our coast, including the exploration and development of offshore oil and natural gas resources, nor into any portion of the Atlantic Ocean that could negatively impact New Jersey’s precious natural resources.” [KYW-TV Philadelphia](#) (8/17, Madden) reports that while Christie is out of the country on vacation, he tweeted that he is “delivering on my promise” to oppose offshore drilling. Jeff Tittle, head of New Jersey’s Sierra Club, praised the opposition, but said Christie should take his opposition further. Tittle said, “He did come out against drilling in the mid-Atlantic which would also include Maryland and Virginia and also New York, but we still have concerns that there’s potential for drilling off North Carolina.” [NJ Spotlight](#) (8/17, Johnson) reports Martin wrote, “Given the role of New Jersey’s coastal waters in our economy, the National OCS program would put at risk not only our coastal economy but a significant portion of our statewide economy.” Cindy Zipf, executive director of Clean Ocean Action, applauded Christie for his opposition.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Cape May County \(NJ\) Herald](#) (8/17). Commentary appeared in the [Morristown \(NJ\) Daily Record](#) (8/17) and [My Central Jersey](#) (8/17).

***House Lawmakers Push Interior To Consider All U.S. Waters.*** [E&E Publishing](#) (8/16) reports more than 100 members of the House wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to urge the department to consider all 26 planning areas in the outer continental shelf in the Administration’s new five-year leasing plan for offshore oil and gas exploration.

### **Desperately Seeking Zinke’s Attention.**

[Politico Morning Energy](#) (8/17, Adragna) reports Thursday was “the last day for public comments on BOEM’s push to write a new five-year offshore drilling plan.” According to the article, “nearly 51,000 comments have already poured in as President Donald Trump’s administration is expected to begin the two-to-three year process of writing a plan that would open parts of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean as well as Alaska’s Chukchi Sea, Beaufort Sea and Cook Inlet areas to drilling opportunities.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (8/17, Angst).

### **Interior Department Poised To Approve Arctic Oil-Drilling Island.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/17, Siciliano) reports that the Interior Department “stands poised to approve an energy company’s proposed plan to build a gravel island off the coast of Alaska to begin drilling for Arctic oil, while admitting that the move would contribute to climate change.” The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on Wednesday “released its draft environmental impact statement for the proposed Liberty Project, saying the effects of the oil-drilling island on the surrounding ecology would be negligible or minor.” The Hilcorp energy company is proposing to “build a small, artificial gravel island in the 19 feet of shallow federal waters in the Beaufort Sea, which is about 20 miles east of Prudhoe Bay, a major hub for drilling in the state.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (8/17, Harball).

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

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### **With A Crucial Vote Nearing, Gov. Jerry Brown’s Delta Tunnels Project Is Struggling To Win Over Some Agricultural Groups.**

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/17, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that “as California water agencies prepare to vote next month on paying for the tunnels, which are supposed to improve water deliveries to the southern half of the state, the stark difference between urban and rural water users’ expected costs illustrates one of the project’s main stumbling blocks.” For those in Los Angeles, “the cost of building the Delta tunnels might raise your water bill by as little as \$2 a month or less – no more than a latte, to quote one of the project’s main cheerleaders in Southern California.” However, farmers on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley could see an increase of “hundreds of dollars per acre-foot of water.” According to the article, “while the controversial



project is moving through the permit process, it can't break ground unless a solid bloc of south-of-Delta water agencies, urban and rural alike, commits to paying the \$17 billion tab," and "it's far from certain that all the major water agencies will sign on."

### **Water Authority To Fund Conservation Work In Mexico.**

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/17, Brean) reports that the Southern Nevada Water Authority "plans to spend up to \$7.5 million in Mexico over the next 10 years in exchange for more Colorado River water." Authority board members "unanimously approved the payments Thursday as they gave their blessing to a sweeping water-sharing agreement the U.S. and Mexico are expected to sign next month." Under the new pact, known as Minute 323 to the Mexican Water Treaty of 1944, "the authority, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and water agencies in Arizona and California would provide \$31.5 million for water efficiency improvements in Mexico through 2026," and "in return, the contributing agencies would share 229,100 acre-feet of Colorado River water, which is almost enough to supply the entire Las Vegas Valley for one year."

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

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### **Proposed Rocky Flats Visitor's Center Renews Debate Over What To Do With Former Nuclear Site.**

[KUNC-FM](#) Greeley, CO (8/17, Buckley) reports that "unless a federal court intervenes, a visitor center will open at the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge in Golden in the summer of 2018." According to the article, "five groups are suing the Fish and Wildlife Service over the center: the Rocky Mountain Peace & Justice Center, Candelas Glows/Rocky Flats Glows, Rocky Flats Right to Know, Rocky Flats Neighborhood Association and the Environmental Information Network (EIN) Inc." The groups have "asked a federal judge to halt building on the site, claiming it is not safe for public access."

### **New Refuge Boating Plan Receives Positive Feedback.**

The [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (8/18, Walters) reports that "there were only a handful of comments collected during a six-hour public comment meeting on the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge's newest draft compatibility determination, a far cry from last year's session that saw about 500 people turn out for an earlier draft." According to Havasu National Wildlife Refuge Manager Richard Meyers, "of the few comments reviewed prior to Thursday's meeting, most of the feedback received was 'overwhelmingly positive.'" Meyers said, "The mayor and other pillars of the community like the Marine Association, have spoken in support of it, which has helped."

### **Biddeford Officials Sell Land Off Mile Stretch Road.**

The [Biddeford-Saco-OOB \(ME\) Courier](#) (8/17, McPherson) reports that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will "purchase two parcels of land along Mile Stretch Road in Biddeford Pool as part of its ongoing conservation efforts." The property "totaled 1.34 acres and will be added to the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge." The city of Biddeford will receive \$23,000 once the agreement is finalized.

### **Hornshell Mussel Endangered Designation On Hold.**

The [Del Rio \(TX\) News Herald](#) (8/18, Tackett) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "extending its final determination as to whether to or not to list the Texas Hornshell Mussel, which inhabits the Devil's River, as an endangered species."

## **National Park Service**

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### **Put-In-Bay Township Park District To Receive \$325,000 From Interior.**

The [Port Clinton \(OH\) News Herald](#) (8/17) reports that the National Park Service "announced that it intends to award a \$325,000 cooperative agreement to the Put-In-Bay Township Park District for the restoration of coastal wetland and wet woods at the Lake Erie location." According to the NPS, "the objective of this Agreement is to restore coastal wetland and wet woods in South Bass and Middle Bass Islands in Lake Erie."

### **Swains Lockhouse In Potomac To Be Renovated With National Park Service Grant.**

[Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#) (8/17, Zimmermann) reports that “Swains Lockhouse in Potomac—a one-story structure built in 1832 and considered critically in need of maintenance—received a \$100,000 grant from the National Park Service, the C&O Canal Trust announced Tuesday.” The grant will be “matched by another \$108,160 raised by the C&O Canal Trust, the Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern and the C&O Canal Association.”

### **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Vandalized.**

[WTTG-TV](#) Washington (8/17) reports that “the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was vandalized with a red, waxy material Wednesday evening, according to officials.” The National Park Service “said the material, believed to be a red crayon or lipstick, was discovered at about 8:45 p.m.” The agency “said the material was successfully removed.”

Also reporting are [WRC-TV Washington](#) Washington (8/17, Stabley) and [WTOP-FM Washington](#) Washington (8/17, Moore).

### **Cities Brace For White Nationalist Rallies Post-Charlottesville.**

The [Washington Times](#) (8/17, Noble) reports that San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee “accused the National Park Service of issuing a permit for an Aug. 26 Patriot Prayer rally without taking public safety concerns into proper consideration.” Lee said in a letter to Park Service officials, “San Francisco has a long and storied history of championing freedom of expression and First Amendment rights, but as we have witnessed in recent months, these types of rallies can quickly turn hateful and violent with tragic consequences.” He wrote, “Events in Charlottesville and Seattle are proof that rallies such as these attract extreme and racist fringe groups who only want to provide malice and incite brutality.”

Also reporting are the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/17, Ting), [Newsweek](#) (8/17, Lanktree), [KPIX-TV San Francisco](#) San Francisco (8/17, Caen), and [KXTV-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (8/17, Renee).

### **Confederate Monuments To Stay At Gettysburg Battlefield.**

The [AP](#) (8/17) reports that “officials with the National Park Service said the Confederate monuments at Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania will not be removed from the battlefield.” Katie Lawhon, senior adviser for the park service’s Gettysburg battlefield office, said that “the site-specific memorials are important, and the park service’s job is to historically and objectively tell the stories the monuments commemorate.”

### **Grand Teton Park To Outshine Bigger Yellowstone For Eclipse.**

The [AP](#) (8/18, Moen) reports for the total solar eclipse Monday, Grand Teton National Park is “expected to outshine, and overshadow” its neighbor, Yellowstone National Park. Grand Teton is “directly in the path of the eclipse — where the sun is completely blocked by the moon,” while Yellowstone will “see just a partial eclipse.” Grand Teton spokeswoman Denise Germann said, “We anticipate it to be the busiest day in the history of the park. We’re trying to create realistic expectations for visitors as well as our staff that there’s going to be congestion, there’s going to be traffic gridlock.”

### **New Citizens Taking Oath At Women’s Rights National Historical Park In Seneca Falls.**

The [Finger Lakes \(NY\) Times](#) (8/17, Buchiere) reports that “on Friday, 20 people will become new U.S. citizens, and they’ll do it at a place where the movement to obtain additional rights for women, including voting, gained steam.” According to the article, “the candidates will state the oath of citizenship and be presented certificates by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at the Women’s Rights National Historical Park.” It is “one of many naturalization ceremonies taking place in national parks during Citizenship Week under a partnership between the National Park Service and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.”

### **Severed Septic Line Sparks Closure Of Jones Hole Creek In Dinosaur National Monument.**

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/17, Semerad) reports that “the popular fishing waters of Jones Hole Creek in eastern Utah’s Dinosaur National Monument have been closed to recreation after a broken septic line fouled parts of the waterway.” In an announcement Thursday, National Park Service officials “said the temporary closure included bans on angling, hiking and swimming along a 4.25-mile length of the creek and adjacent trail, extending from Jones Hole Fish Hatchery to the Green River.”

## **National Park Service Considering Dismantling Part Of Bridge At Settles Bridge Park In Response To Recent Drownings.**

The [Gwinnett \(GA\) Daily Post](#) (8/17, O'Brien) reports that "in the past two weeks two young men have died jumping off the bridge at Settles Bridge Park and into the Chattahoochee River." Now the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area is "talking to the State Preservation Office about partially dismantling the bridge to keep people off of it." According to the article, "since the structure is considered a 'cultural resource,' the CRNRA needs the State Preservation Office's blessing before it can tamper with the bridge's structure."

## **Dinker-Irvin Cottage Listed On National Register Of Historic Places.**

The [Coastal Point \(DE\)](#) (8/18, Titus) reports that the Dinker-Irvin Cottage has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Additional Coverage: U.S. Parks End Bottled-Water Ban.**

Additional coverage that the National Park Service is discontinuing its policy allowing a ban on water bottles in national parks was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Fears), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/17, Ma), and [Plastics News](#) (8/17, Johnson).

## **Eclipse, Wildfires Bring Focus To Smokies' Fragility.**

In an op-ed for the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (8/17, Skelton), Will Skelton, a retired attorney, writes that "after last year's devastating wildfires, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is back in business, and there is no better reason to visit than the upcoming once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse." He notes that "on Aug. 21, the eastern portion of the park will be within the path of the total eclipse and thousands of visitors are expected for this unique event." Skelton also calls for tackling the backlog in maintenance at national parks.

## **Office Of Insular Affairs**

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### **Tillerson, Mattis: Military Options Remain For North Korea.**

The [AP](#) (8/17, Pennington) reports Secretary of State Tillerson and Defense Secretary Mattis "sought Thursday to reinforce the threat of possible US military action against North Korea" after chief strategist Steve Bannon "essentially called the commander-in-chief's warnings a bluff." After security talks with Japanese officials in Washington, Tillerson stressed that the US "seeks a peaceful solution to the standoff," but that US-led campaign of economic pressure and diplomacy "needs to be backed by potential military consequences." Washington is "prepared militarily" to respond, if necessary, Tillerson said. The AP notes that "neither Tillerson nor Mattis responded directly" to Bannon's argument in an interview published Wednesday that there's no military solution to the North Korean threat.

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (8/17, Wadhams) too says Tillerson and Mattis "said the prospect of US military action remains on the table...rejecting an assertion by...Bannon that there's no such option." Bloomberg says their remarks "made clear that they spurned Bannon's comments" in an interview that there was no "military solution here, they got us." While Tillerson "said he wouldn't comment on Bannon's statement," he "pointedly" added, "Our approach has been endorsed by the president." [Politico](#) (8/17, Nelson) likewise calls their remarks "a direct rebuttal" to Bannon.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Gearan, Morello) reports Tillerson said Trump's threats are a means to "remind the regime" in Pyongyang what is at stake. "I think the president just felt it was necessary to remind the regime of what the consequences for them would be if they chose to carry out those threats," Tillerson said. Mattis likewise warned Pyongyang that both the US and Japan "will deter, and if necessary defeat, any threat. Any initiation of hostilities will be met with an effective and overwhelming response." The Post notes that Tillerson "declined to comment on reported remarks from...Bannon."

A front-page report in the [New York Times](#) (8/16, A1, Perlez, Choe) says the Administration "plunged America's Asian alliances into new confusion Thursday with conflicting signals over how to counter North Korea's nuclear threat." The Times says the "mixed messages about North Korea policy added to the sense of disarray coming from the White House, where Mr. Trump appeared to have all but forgotten the crisis a week after he threatened an ad hoc 'fire and fury' response to North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, if he menaced the United States."

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (8/17, A1, DeYoung) reports Mattis' remarks "fell between President's Trump's warning last week...and this week's remark by...Bannon that North

Korea was a 'sideshow' to which there was 'no military solution.'" The Post says that in the "whirlwind of successive controversies and crises that have become the hallmark of the Trump administration, domestic strife in Charlottesville has quickly overtaken last week's worry about war with North Korea," but US partners in the region and beyond "have continued to seek reassurance that the United States will defend them as vigorously as it will protect itself, if necessary, while refraining from initiating a shooting war on its own."

[Reuters](#) (8/17, Torbati) reports Tillerson said the US "wanted dialogue with Pyongyang, but only if it were meaningful." Said Tillerson, "Our effort is to cause them to want to engage in talks but engage in talks with an understanding that these talks will lead to a different conclusion than talks of the past." Another [Reuters](#) (8/17) report says Tillerson also told reporters the US would honor its defense treaty agreements with Japan "without reservation."

### **Department Of Interior Helps With Transition.**

The [Marshall Islands Journal](#) (8/18) reports that Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula "made available two technical assistance grants totaling \$467,095 to continue support for the Micronesia Resource Center One Stop Shop on Guam and the One Stop Center in Hawaii." Also, "a third grant for \$63,249 will be used to strengthen organizations providing family services on Guam, and a fourth grant for \$77,349 will support similar efforts in Springdale, Arkansas, which large communities of Marshallese migrants now call home."

## **US Geological Survey**

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### **Beach Erosion A Growing Threat On California Shoreline.**

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/17, McPhate) reports that "a study this year by the U.S. Geological Survey predicted that as much as two-thirds of Southern California's beaches could be lost by the end of the century." Patrick Barnard, a geologist and author of the report, pointed to "rising seas and intensified storms, both linked to climate change, as well as hundreds of river dams that are blocking the flow of sand to beaches." Barnard said, "The open question on the climate side is, 'How quickly is this going to happen? Is it going to be 30 years or 50 years?' But we know it's happening. And we know it's coming."

### **Scientists Work On Math Model To Better Predict Spread Of CWD.**

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/16, Nelson) reports that "a new, more accurate way to forecast the growth and expansion of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in whitetail deer also could help predict the spread of invasive species such as zebra mussels or the Ebola and Zika viruses, according to researchers." Daniel Walsh, "a U.S. Geological Survey scientist based in Madison, Wis., and an author of a paper describing the newly developed method," said that "the forecasting tool presents the probability of CWD infection in a heat map-like format, with darker 'hot spots' showing where the disease is growing at a faster rate in a study area in southern Wisconsin." Walsh said, "We can model the growth of the disease in an area and how it's spreading through an area. That allows us to look at what's affecting growth in the disease in the area. The other nice thing is that we can look at past management actions to see which ones may be most efficacious or most effective at slowing growth or preventing spread. That's how we think it could be useful."

## **Top National News**

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### **Trump Criticizes Removal Of "Beautiful Statues And Monuments."**

Continuing coverage of the aftermath of President Trump's remarks on Charlottesville focuses on his Thursday morning tweets on the removal of Confederate monuments. While some analyses say it was a step away from the racial controversy of the past few days, more link it to Trump's earlier comments that have been portrayed in the media as a defense of white supremacists. Growing Republican criticism is touched on, but is not central to the coverage.

The President [wrote on Twitter](#), "Sad to see the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart with the removal of our beautiful statues and monuments. You can't change history, but you can learn from it. Robert E Lee, Stonewall Jackson – who's next, Washington, Jefferson? So foolish! Also the beauty that is being taken out of our cities, towns and parks will be greatly missed and never able to be comparably replaced!"

Hallie Jackson reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/17, story 3, 1:45, Holt) that the President's "response to the domestic attack in Charlottesville is still generating fallout as the President now laments the removal of Confederate monuments." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/17, story 5, 1:50, Brennan) reported that the President "bemoaned the removal of what he called 'beautiful Confederate statues,' and said America history is 'being ripped apart.'" In a statement, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham urged the President to stop. 'You are now receiving praise from some of the most racist and hate-filled individuals and groups in our country,' he said, 'please fix this.'" On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/17, story 4, 1:55, Muir), Cecilia Vega reported, "President Trump under mounting fire for his leadership in the wake of Charlottesville. ... The President's words alarm many top Republicans."

The [AP](#) (8/17, Lemire, Superville) reports, "With prominent Republicans openly questioning his competence and moral leadership," the President "burrowed deeper into the racially charged debate over Confederate memorials and lashed out at members of his own party. ... Out of sight, but still online, Trump tweeted his defense of monuments to Confederate icons," and "berated his critics who, with increasingly sharper language, have denounced his initially slow and then ultimately combative comments" on Charlottesville. The [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Nakamura) reports that while "the political backlash to Trump's handling of the situation has left some White House advisers dispirited," the President "appears to have been emboldened to fight back against his critics and create a cultural wedge issue over the matter that could rally his base of hard-core supporters." However, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/17, Bierman, Lauter) reports that "by his efforts to please the hard-right activists, the president is pushing mainstream supporters further away."

The [New York Times](#) (8/17, Sullivan, Haberman) reports that the President's Thursday tweets did appear "to shift attention away from his remarks that 'both sides' were to blame for the violence in Charlottesville, and instead focus the debate on the historical argument to keep the statues in place." [Politico](#) (8/17, Nelson) says the President "waded deeper...into the growing controversy surrounding statues and memorials dedicated to the Confederacy."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Costa, Nakamura) writes, "A chorus of Republicans expressed alarm over Trump's words and their potential cost with voters" as "Democrats reacted with horror at Trump's enthusiasm for memorials to the Confederacy." [Bloomberg News](#) (8/17, House) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell and House Speaker Ryan "tried to distance themselves" from the President's remarks "by issuing statements condemning white supremacy. Neither mentioned the president." Bloomberg News says that their reluctance, and that of other top Republicans, "is the latest sign the party leaders remain unwilling to challenge even the president's most controversial remarks."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/17) editorializes, "Let's be clear. No one is talking about ripping the country apart – unless it's the president himself. The tons of Confederate iconography installed long ago were put there as part of an ideological campaign whose goals were to glorify men and women who betrayed the United States in the cause of human slavery and to marginalize descendants of the enslaved. ... To hail the 'beauty' of the statues is to ignore all that, possibly for short-term political advantage." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/17) says in an editorial that presidents need to choose their words carefully, and that there is no point to reopening a debate about the Civil War.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/17, Bender, Kamp), [McClatchy](#) (8/16, Pugh), and [The Hill](#) (8/17, Fabian) also have reports.

***The Economist, Time, New Yorker Covers Link Trump And Hate Groups.*** The [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Borchers) reports, "President Trump collects magazine covers, but he probably won't want to keep these." The [latest cover](#) of The Economist "depicts the president bellowing into a white, conical megaphone," while Time's [new cover](#) "features a boot-clad white man behind an American flag, held aloft at a 45-degree angle by a pole whose ornament is an outstretched hand, creating the effect of a Nazi salute." [Axios](#) (8/17, Treene) reports that the New Yorker also used Klan imagery on its [new cover](#).

***Plaque At Trump Golf Course Commemorates Civil War Battle That Did Not Happen.*** [Rolling Stone](#) (8/17, Chen) reports, "A 2015 report about a factually inaccurate plaque featured at Donald Trump's Northern Virginia Trump National Golf Club has resurfaced this week." [The plaque](#) reads, "Many great American soldiers, both of the North and South, died at this spot. The casualties were so great that the water would turn red and thus became known as 'The River of Blood.' It is my great honor to have preserved this important section of the Potomac River!" According to the 2015 New York Times report, "three historians asserted that no such battle or designation has ever been given to that spot."

***NYTimes Considers Views Of "Trump's Black Friends."*** The [New York Times](#) (8/17, Alcindor,



Haberman) reports under the headline “How Do Trump’s Black Friends Feel? It’s Complicated” that “the furor that Mr. Trump has created with his equivocation” over Charlottesville “has refocused attention on the president’s complex relationship with matters of race. Long before he embarked on his improbable political career, he had courted racial controversy, calling for the death penalty for five black and Latino teens who were later shown to have been wrongly convicted of a rape in Central Park, settling a Justice Department suit that charged the family business with housing discrimination and falsely accusing the nation’s first black president of being born in Kenya.” But “he made outsize efforts to hang out publicly with African-American celebrities,” and “the few African-Americans in his inner circle...describe him as a 71-year-old man with fixed views and a cloistered history.”

***Pelosi Calls For Removal Of Confederate Statues From Capitol.*** The [New York Times](#) (8/17, Kaplan) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi called Thursday for the removal of Confederate statues from the United States Capitol. [Politico](#) (8/17, Schor) reports, “Congressional GOP leaders have previously stated that decisions on replacing Capitol statues should rest with individual states, and [House Speaker] Ryan’s office affirmed that stance earlier this week.” The [Washington Times](#) (8/17, Sherfinski) also reports on Pelosi’s remarks, and the [Washington Times](#) (8/17, McLaughlin, Sherfinski) says in an accompanying story that “at least a quarter of the 100 state statues that are part of what is known as the Statuary Hall collection commemorate slave owners.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/17, story 6, 2:15, Holt) reported on Pelosi’s call for removal, while the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/17, story 7, 2:40, Mason) reported, “A new poll shows a majority of Americans, 62 percent, want Confederate statues to remain standing as historical symbols. Twenty-seven percent of those polled believed the statues should be removed because they’re offensive.”

***Clarke Bill Would Require Renaming Of Military Installations Named For Confederate Generals.*** [McClatchy](#) (8/17, Douglas, Bergengruen) reports that Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY) “is drafting legislation to require the Pentagon rename any military installations named for Confederate generals.” Clarke “has 10 co-sponsors, all House Democrats from New York and New Jersey.”

***LePage: Taking Down Confederate Statues “Just Like” Removing 9/11 Memorial.*** The [AP](#) (8/17, Whittle) reports that MaineGov. Paul LePage said that removing “Confederate figures is ‘just like’ removing a monument to victims of the 9/11 attacks.” LePage added “that the white nationalist and far-left protesters in Charlottesville over the weekend were ‘equally as bad’ and ‘disgusting.’”

***Richmond Mayor Favors “Context” Signage For Confederate Monuments.*** In the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/17), writer Dave Shiflett highlights a plan by Richmond, Virginia Mayor Levar Stoney to add what he described as “context” signage to Confederate monuments to “set the historical record straight.”

***Confederate Memorial Stands In Arlington National Cemetery.*** On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Shapiro) has a feature on the Confederate Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, a “32-foot-tall bronze hymn to soldiers of a bygone past” and “a soaring testament to Southern pride, placed in Arlington nearly 50 years after the Civil War ended.” While “there are many Rebel monuments on federal property,” the Confederate Memorial “stands out, opponents say, for its location on sacred space in Arlington and its offensive depiction of slaves.”

***Lincoln Monument In Chicago Damaged.*** The [Washington Times](#) (8/17, Ernst) reports that a giant bust of Abraham Lincoln in Chicago’s Englewood neighborhood “appears to have been damaged after someone...sprayed and ignited a flammable liquid.”

***Vice Editor Calls For Blowing Up Mount Rushmore.*** [Breitbart](#) (8/17, Munro) reports that Vice Magazine posted a [piece](#) by senior editor Wilbert Cooper which urged “Let’s Blow Up Mount Rushmore,” although the headline was later changed to “Let’s Get Rid of Mount Rushmore.” Breitbart says Cooper calls for “Americans’ politics, culture, and history to be purified by political fire,” writing, “Let’s take with us the righteous ideas and beliefs and leave everything else on the pyre.”

***Red Sox Owner Advocates Renaming Yawkey Way Outside Fenway Park.*** The [New York Post](#) (8/17, Masisak) reports that Boston Red Sox owner John Henry told the Boston Herald he is “ready to lead the charge for renaming Yawkey Way, the famous street outside Fenway Park.” The street is named after Tom Yawkey, who owned the franchise from 1933-76. Yawkey’s team “was the last in the league to welcome a black player to its roster, a full 12 years after Jackie Robinson first suited up for the Dodgers.”

***Vespa: Progressives Seek To Erase American History.*** Matt Vespa writes in a piece for [Townhall](#) (8/17, Vespa) that “American progressives” are “engaging in their favorite pastime: erasing American history and slamming our founding. ... The removal of Confederate statues is



the backdoor to this nonsense."

### **Corker: Trump Yet To Demonstrate Necessary "Stability," "Competence."**

Sharp criticism of President Trump by Sen. Bob Corker, delivered at the Rotary Club of Chattanooga, generated extensive media attention including reports on all three major network newscasts. Analysts cast Corker's broadside as evidence of an increasingly isolated chief executive in the wake of his comments on the Charlottesville incident. The [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (8/17, Flessner) indicates, however, that "the Tennessee Republican chided Trump" not just for "his comments about the fatal protest rally last weekend," but also for his "'hot rhetoric' about North Korea and his tweets criticizing fellow Republicans in the Congress." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/17, story 4, 0:50, Brennan) showed Corker saying, "There needs to be radical changes taking place at the White House itself. ... The President...has not yet been able to demonstrate the stability, nor some of the competence, that he needs to demonstrate in order to be successful." As quoted by [NPR](#) (8/17), Corker added, "And we need for him to be successful. Our nation needs for him to be successful." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/17, story 5, 0:55, Vega) noted the senator also said, "I think our President needs to take stock of the role that he plays in our nation and move beyond himself. Move way beyond himself."

[CNN](#) (8/17) Editor-at-Large Chris Cillizza wrote "Corker is clearly hinting at the possibility that Trump is not simply misguided in some of his policies and pronouncements – but that he may be fundamentally unfit for the office that he currently holds," and [Roll Call](#) (8/17, Bennett) summed up Corker's words as "saying the president is driving the United States toward 'great peril' because he lacks the 'stability' and 'competence' for the country's highest office." Moreover, [Business Insider](#) (8/17, Relman) reported, "Corker went on to accuse the president of inspiring division for political gain." The [Washington Times](#) (8/17, Boyer) quotes the senator as saying, "Helping inspire divisions because it generates support from your political base is not a formula for causing our nation to advance, our nation to overcome the many issues we have to deal with right now."

Senior political analyst Mark Preston said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/17), "I have never seen – and I spent a lot of times covering Capitol Hill – I have never seen anything like this in my life. In many ways, maybe it is showing us that...Trump really is not a Republican. Maybe...Trump is...Trump and he used the Republican Party as the vessel for him to get to the White House."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/17, story 6, 1:35, Mason), John Dickerson said Corker "is not one of the usual suspects who are always criticizing the President," and that "the reason" his words are "so damning is this is a critique people have had about candidate Trump and then President Trump. ... These are problems, as Sen. Corker has identified themselves, that are in the man himself. He calls on the President to have some self-reflection. So if you're in the White House, you have to hope the President is listening." [USA Today](#) (8/17, Collins) reports that Corker "often advises Trump on foreign policy," and [Bloomberg News](#) (8/17, Blum, House) that his "criticisms are particularly notable because he has previously been a Trump ally and met with him before his inauguration to discuss the possibility of becoming secretary of State." In fact, said [The Hill](#) (8/17, Carney), Corker "got speculation as a potential vice presidential pick."

Jake Tapper said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/17) that "there are signs that...Trump's rhetoric this week is causing major distress among members on Capitol Hill in a way we have not seen before," and similarly calls Corker's criticism "remarkable" because he "is not one of the President's usual critics."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Sullivan) refers to the "new and forceful round of criticism...from a leading Republican senator," who "took some pauses as he spoke, appearing to choose his words carefully." [Reuters](#) (8/17) speaks of "one of the most pointed attacks from a Republican official on...Trump," and the [AP](#) (8/17, Lardner) of "a stinging rebuke." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/17, Quinn) similarly reported that "though Trump's comments drew the ire of his fellow Republicans, Corker is the first to offer such a blunt assessment of the president."

Political director David Chalian said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (8/17) that while Corker's comments are "significant...we're going to have to separate out the kind of significance. ... Republicans overall are still with this President out in the country. That doesn't make Corker's break with him any less significant. It is incredibly significant. This is man who doesn't really delve into the daily political to-and-fro. He's very much a workhorse in the Senate and he's using language we've not heard."

To the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/17, Mascaro), meanwhile, "Republicans in Congress have tried to stick with...Trump in hopes that despite politically damaging outbursts from the White House,

his pen would ultimately be able to sign their legislative agenda into law." But "in the aftermath of Trump's controversial response to the neo-Nazi rally in Charlottesville, Va., that promise seems ever more distant." Republicans "are now coming to grips with the reality that they are increasingly on their own."

**Scott: Trump's "Moral Authority Is Compromised."** [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/17, story 5, 0:55, Vega) reported, meanwhile, that "sources close to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell describe him as 'very concerned and very upset,' though 'McConnell's office denies that.'" Moreover, "the Senate's only African-American, Republican Tim Scott," said in an interview with [Vice](#), "What we want to see from our President is clarity and moral authority. That moral authority is compromised when Tuesday happens. There's no question about that." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/17, story 4, 1:40, Jackson) likewise showed footage of Scott's words as part of his story on Corker "excoriating" Trump.

**On Twitter, Trump Takes On "Toxic" Flake, "Publicity Seeking" Graham.** The [Weekly Standard](#) (8/17, Lifhiti) reported Trump "fought back against lawmakers' criticism Thursday," using a series of tweets to describe Sen. Lindsey Graham as "publicity seeking" and Sen. Jeff Flake as "toxic." [Wrote](#) Trump, "Great to see that Dr. Kelli Ward is running against Flake. Jeff Flake, who is WEAK on borders, crime and a non-factor in Senate. He's toxic!" Trump also [tweeted](#), "Publicity seeking Lindsey Graham falsely stated that I said there is moral equivalency between the KKK, neo-Nazis & white supremacists...and people like Ms. Heyer. Such a disgusting lie. He just can't forget his election trouncing. The people of South Carolina will remember!" [Politico](#) (8/17, Nelson) noted that "in a follow-up post to [Twitter](#), the president also complained that his comments regarding the hate-fueled violence over the weekend had been purposely misrepresented to the public by the media." [Wrote](#) Trump, "The public is learning (even more so) how dishonest the Fake News is. They totally misrepresent what I say about hate, bigotry etc. Shame!"

The [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Nakamura) reports Flake wrote in a recently published book that "Republicans abandoned their principles in the face of Trump's unorthodox campaign and surrendered to the 'politics of anger,'" while Graham "was among the Republicans who criticized Trump for failing to offer a full-throated condemnation of the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville."

[Politico](#) (8/17, Wright) notes that as part of his criticism Thursday, "Corker took aim at Trump for using his Twitter feed to promote a Republican primary challenger to...Flake." Said Corker, "The White House would be well-served to embrace the character, the substance, of someone like Sen. Flake. ... He's one of the finest people I've served with."

**Reuters, USA Today Analysis: Trump Alienating Senators Who Could Save Him From Impeachment.** [Reuters](#) (8/17, Cowan) reports Trump "has stepped up his attacks on Republican senators, an approach he may regret if he is someday impeached and the Senate has to weigh charges against him stemming from an investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 US election." Reuters adds that "more than half of the 11 Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which would be central to any proceeding to remove Trump from office, have tangled with the Republican president, including on Thursday when he fired off early-morning tweets."

[USA Today](#) (8/17, Kelly) similarly indicates that Trump "is alienating congressional Republicans who might otherwise be his biggest defenders in the ongoing probe of the Trump campaign's ties to Russia, political analysts say." Said Barry Burden, a professor of political science and director of the Elections Research Center at the University of Wisconsin, "Trump's criticism of the very people he would need to defend him are potentially his undoing down the road. ... They really have very little incentive to stand by him," Burden said. "Whether that would result in impeachment or some sort of censure motion, it's too soon to know. But I think most Republicans in Congress would be very content to see (Vice President) Mike Pence take Trump's place."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Sullivan), at any rate, reports that yesterday, "Corker did not advocate specific steps Congress ought to collectively take to punish the president or compel him to change," and when "asked for his reaction to the push by Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.) to try to impeach Trump, Corker did not endorse the move."

In a column titled "History Will Remember The Republicans Who Stick Around," meanwhile, Eugene Robinson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (8/17) that "Trump has dropped all pretense and proudly raised the banner of white racial grievance," and "the time has come for Republicans in Congress to decide whether this is what they signed up for."

**"Network Of Russian Propaganda Tools Amplified" Trump Tweet Slamming Flake.** Under the headline "Russian Network Amplified Trump's Flake Criticism," [USA Today](#) (8/17, Dorell) reports that in the wake of Trump's tweet criticizing Flake, "a network of Russian propaganda tools

amplified the message across the twitterverse, following a pattern of sowing division in the US and in Europe. ... Later Thursday, 'Flake,' 'Phoenix' and 'Arizona' were among the top five trending topics under discussion by a network of 600 Twitter accounts that amplify messages developed by the Kremlin for the US audience. The list of accounts is compiled and tracked by a new database created by the German Marshall Fund of the United States, a Washington, D.C., think tank that promotes cooperation between North America and Europe."

### **Trump Offers Sympathy, US Help In Wake Of Deadly Terror Attack In Barcelona.**

The terrorist attack in Barcelona largely dominated the news cycle, leading all three major network newscasts. Reports indicate ISIS has claimed responsibility for the slaughter, and that while two suspects are in custody, a manhunt continues for the driver of the van. Hours after the news broke, the President [tweeted](#), "The United States condemns the terror attack in Barcelona, Spain, and will do whatever is necessary to help. Be tough & strong, we love you!" The [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Nakamura) reports "Trump's tweet...stood in sharp contrast to" his "reaction Saturday to an attack in Charlottesville," where he "blamed the actions of people 'on many sides.'" In its story on Trump's tweet, [The Hill](#) (8/17, Fabian) similarly indicated that the president has not described the Charlottesville incident a "terror attack." The President's reaction to yesterday's carnage also received coverage from all three broadcasts – although it merited only a sentence in reports from CBS and ABC. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/17, story 4, 0:50, Brennan) briefly reported that Trump "condemned the Barcelona attack and offered US help," and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/17, story 4, 1:55, Muir) that he was "offering to do whatever is necessary to help." NBC and cable outlets, meanwhile, focused on a follow-up remark that was cast as "debunked" as well as "inflammatory" to Muslims.

The [AP](#) (8/17, Superville, Lee) reports the White House said Trump "was...briefed on developments in Spain by his chief of staff, John Kelly." First lady Melania Trump [tweeted](#) her "'thoughts and prayers' to Barcelona before the president condemned the attack." The [Daily Caller](#) (8/17, Athey) noted, meanwhile, that Secretary of State Tillerson "told terrorists Thursday regarding a Barcelona terrorist attack that the United States 'will find you and bring you to justice.'"

Catherine Herridge reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/17) that the US government has been "completely engaged" from the "moment that the attack happened." Intelligence officials are going through watch lists and other databases to see if the suspects identified by Spanish authorities are in their systems. Herridge noted that Spain is a visa waiver country, "which means they can travel freely into" the US without a visa. Former CIA officer Phil Mudd noted on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/17) that "a lot of Americans presumably were there in that area...visiting Barcelona, including six American...college basketball teams."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/17, lead story, 3:10, Muir) reported on the "horrific scene playing out in Barcelona in an historic shopping district where many tourists visit. A driver jumping the curb and his van barreling through the crowd. Children believed to be among the victims tonight." Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy is calling the attack "jihadist terrorism." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/17, lead story, 3:05, Holt) noted "ISIS is now claiming responsibility, saying it was carried out by one of its soldiers, but it offered no evidence." Spanish investigators are looking at the attack as "part of a wider plot," saying that it's related to an explosion at a house yesterday, "so what happened today doesn't look like it was the work of some lone actor with a van." Catherine Herridge similarly reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/17) that the explosion 90 miles from Barcelona is a "very important development because it suggests that we are dealing with multiple actors in this plot."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/17, lead story, 2:45, Mason) reported the attack by "a terrorist in a van" is the "latest in a string of attacks in Europe where vehicles are the weapon." Authorities have arrested two people, "but police have categorically stated they were not driving the van that mowed into pedestrians." The driver of the van is reportedly still on the run. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/17, story 2, 2:10, Muir) reported one of the two men in custody is 28-year old Moroccan-born Driss Oukabir, who authorities say "recently traveled to Morocco, arriving back in Spain just last Sunday, and then rented the van used in the attack." Oukabir claims someone stole his license, and that he is not involved in anyway. Another "terror suspect is dead." Jim Sciutto reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/17) that there was another incident in Barcelona "where a car rammed police at a police check point." A policeman who was injured in the incident killed that suspect, "but police not saying yet whether they know there is a connection between that incident and" the deadly van attack.

The [New York Times](#) (8/17, Walsh, Bolon, Karasz) reports that "in the past year, the Islamic

State has devoted resources to translating their channels and messages into Spanish." While "countries like France and Britain have repeatedly been named in Islamic State propaganda urging followers to plan and stage attacks, Spain has been less in the cross hairs." However, "the country has, however, been a transit point for recruits of the militant group, both for those going to Syria and those returning," and "Spanish police arrested nine people in April who they said may have been connected with deadly attacks in France and Spain." The [Washington Times](#) (8/17, Arostegui) quotes an unnamed "high-level Spanish police official" saying, "We have dismantled dozens of plots and conducted about 300 arrests and detentions of terror suspects over the last two years, but some were bound to get through."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/17, A1, Booth, Adam, Murphy) also reports "Spanish authorities had been worried about being a target, after having been spared mass-casualty terrorist violence since a 2004 attack on the Madrid rail system." ISIS "supporters celebrated the Barcelona attack on Thursday and promoted previous threats made against Spain, according to the SITE Intelligence Group." [USA Today](#) (8/17, Stanglin, Mir) notes that SITE "said the Amaq News agency, which is linked to the Islamic State, reported that the extremist group had claimed responsibility for the attack." The [New York Post](#) (8/17, Brown) also highlights the Amaq report.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/17, Zavis, Rocha, Almadani) recounts that "the attack occurred on Las Ramblas, a street popular with tourists and lined with shops and stalls running through the center of Barcelona. It has a wide pedestrian path running down its center, with cars traveling on both sides." [Bloomberg News](#) (8/17, Duarte, White, Orihuela) reports that "with about 100 more people injured, Catalonia's regional government said the death toll could rise." [Reuters](#) (8/17, Suarez, Rubio), the [Washington Times](#) (8/17, Noble, Sherfinski), [The Hill](#) (8/17, Manchester) and The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/17, Neumann, Sloat), among other news outlets, run similar accounts of the day's events.

***Five Suspected Terrorists Killed Near Barcelona As Police Thwart New Attack.*** The [AP](#) (8/17) reports "the police force for Spain's Catalonia region says...five suspects shot and killed in the resort town of Cambrils were carrying bomb belts, which have been detonated by the force's bomb squad."

***Media Analyses, Democrats: Trump Tweeted A "Debunked, Violent, Anti-Muslim Myth."*** [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/17, story 3, 1:45, Holt) reported that while Trump denounced the attack, "he's also under fire for following that up with a [tweet](#), reviving a debunked myth that many Muslims find inflammatory." NBC (Jackson) added, "As an example of how to get tough on what he called radical Islamic terror, he cited a debunked, violent, anti-Muslim myth about US General John Pershing cracking down on unrest in the Philippines a century ago." Jake Tapper said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/17), "That story is not true. There is no evidence backing up...Trump's claim that in the early 1900s, Gen. John Pershing tried to quell a Muslim uprising in the Philippines by dipping 50 bullets in pig's blood, which is offensive to Muslims, and shooting 49 Muslim insurgents and telling the [fiftieth] to go tell everyone what he saw. Historians say there is zero evidence to that. None. Not true." Tapper added, "So, just to be clear, what happened...in the face of a horrific terrorist attack, where people are still finding out that loved ones have been killed or injured," the President "just told the world to study a story that is not true."

[USA Today](#) (8/17, Jackson) reports, meanwhile, that "historians have found only a single letter from a soldier who said Pershing had a local chieftain buried with a bloody pig, a claim written decades after the alleged incident. A memoir by Pershing cited a letter from another US officer who said several Filipinos were buried in a grave with a bloody pig." The [New York Times](#) (8/17, Qiu) says "various versions of this myth began circulating around the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, often in email chains and on discussion boards online." In one, "in a column published in National Review in December 2002, a few months before the invasion of Iraq, the act was attributed to unnamed troops under Pershing's command."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Nakamura) says Trump "recycled a largely discredited Internet tale that he promoted on the campaign trail as a way to call attention to what he has called 'radical Islamic terrorism.'" The Post adds "the story has been found to be unsubstantiated by numerous fact-checkers in the media." [The Hill](#) (8/17, Fabian) calls the account "a dubious story," and the [New York Post](#) (8/17, Moore) notes that when Trump told it during a campaign rally last year, [Politifact](#) rated it "pants on fire," writing, "In all, Trump's claim is ridiculous, so we rate it Pants on Fire."

Gloria Borger reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/17) that in his tweet Thursday, Trump said there was no more radical Islamic terror for 35 years after what Pershing did, but claimed it was "25 years" when he first made the claim in February. Borger said that is "concerning" because it again shows Trump's "casual relationship with the truth," and added that it is "more



concerning" that Trump thinks the tweet "represents...the right response" to the terror attack in Barcelona.

Phil Mudd said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/17) that Trump "is making an amateur move" by showing ISIS that they have his attention, which is what ISIS wants. Paul Cruickshank added that Trump's "offensive" and "very inflammatory words" will fuel "ISIS propaganda" and put "Americans at risk overseas."

Sen. Ben Cardin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/17) that "fake news is fake news and doesn't make a difference how many times you tell it, it's a lie." Cardin added it's "outrageous" that Trump would continue to repeat the story when he is "clearly wrong."

Rep. Joaquin Castro said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/17) that Trump's tweet is "not helpful at all," adding that it's "very odd for the President...to be getting on Twitter and spreading a myth about General Pershing and one that has been debunked, especially to do it on the same day of the attack."

Rep. Kathleen Rice said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/17) said she believes Trump is losing the moral authority of the presidency, and criticized him for being inconsistent with his messaging following the attack in Barcelona. She said his first tweet regarding the attack seemed to be "an appropriate response for the President...and then within a short period of time he puts out another tweet that contains false information that is meant to do nothing but insight fear with people and also even more damaging to make our allies question the resolve of this administration and our country in fighting the terrorism."

**CNN's Blitzer, Sciutto Wonder If Attack Carried Out By Charlottesville "Copycats."** [The Federalist](#) (8/17) reported that after the terrorist attack in Barcelona, "CNN repeatedly suggested that the Barcelona terrorists got the idea to kill people with cars from Charlottesville." Wolf Blitzer said on [CNN Wolf](#) (8/17), "There will be questions about copycats. There will be questions if what happened in Barcelona, was at all, at all, a copycat version of what happened in Charlottesville, Virginia. Even though they may be different characters and different political ambitions, they use the same killing device, a vehicle going at high speed into a group, a large group, of pedestrians." The Federalist noted that CNN's Chief National Security Correspondent Jim Sciutto also "suggested that ISIS, the terror group which has taken responsibility for the attack, was taking a page from the Charlottesville suspect's playbook, a suggestion at odds with the fact that radical Islamic terrorists have used vehicles as weapons for years." Sciutto "later doubled down on the idea. Twice."

Sciutto said on [CNN Wolf](#) (8/17) that "in light of the uproar over the last several days, five days apart you have white supremacists in Charlottesville use a vehicle to kill and here you have attackers at least following the modus operandi of terrorists using vehicles apparently to kill as well. And those shared tactics...should be alarming." [Breitbart](#) (8/17, Hanchett) and [Townhall](#) (8/17, Vespa) also noted the comments.

**Ex-FBI Official: Very Difficult To Stop Vehicle Attacks.** [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/17, story 3, 0:55, Muir) reported authorities in the US are "on high alert tonight amid the calls from ISIS to use vehicles in attacks." However, former Assistant FBI Director Ron Hosko said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/17, story 2, 2:05, Mason) that it's "almost impossible" to protect civilians from vehicle attacks, adding, "We can harden targets that are high-concentration areas, but we're always going to be vulnerable."

[USA Today](#) (8/17, Gomez) says if the attack "sounds familiar, that's because it follows a disturbing trend of terrorism that requires little organization, manpower or technological know-how. Whatever the attacker's motive, the method has become commonplace."

Rep. Kathleen Rice said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/17) discussed the difficulty of preventing people from being inspired over the Internet and then getting in a car and "inflict[ing] massive damage." She said the "key to all of this is if you see something, say something."

**Counterterror Experts: Attack Could Be ISIS Response To Losses In Iraq And Syria.** Fran Townsend, a homeland security adviser to President George W. Bush, said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/17, story 3, 1:50, Mason) that it's not surprising ISIS has claimed responsibility, because "as we're succeeding against them in places like Iraq and Syria, they're clearly looking for opportunities to strike back, and it's easier asymmetrically against civilian populations. ... We'll see whether or not this was foreign fighters, which are far more prevalent in places like France, Germany, Brussels."

Former National Counterterrorism Center Director Michael Leiter said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/17, story 2, 1:30, Holt) that military efforts against ISIS in the Middle East are "an important strategic step, to disrupt the organization and ultimately take some of the wind out of

their sails, but that doesn't really help in these tactical situations because the fact is, ISIS has launched a message, and that network of people, even if not connected and speaking to individuals in Syria and Iraq, are still taking steps like this to be soldiers in ISIS' army."

Michael Waltz, who served as senior counterterrorism advisor to former Vice President Dick Cheney, said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/17) that "terrorists have found the perfect weapon that requires no training" in vehicle attacks, and that is why it's "so important" that the US and its allies "stabilize Syria, to finish off ISIS as a state," and remain "engaged" in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other countries where terrorist organizations exist. He acknowledged it's "frustrating" that the war on terror has gone on "for so long," but "we are in a generational effort against Islamic extremism and we have to stay engaged offense."

Counterterrorism specialist Paul Cruickshank said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/17), "The first thing to say is [ISIS] provided no proof they were actually behind this or connected to this attack any way." He noted ISIS has falsely claimed responsibility before after an attack in Manila. However, he added that if the attack is linked back to ISIS, it's an attack "on the entire international community," because ISIS has previously focused on countries involved in the anti-ISIS coalition in Syria, and he said Spain is less involved in that effort.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/17) urges European governments to crack down on terror funding and increase coordination to stem the terror threat. To the Journal, the danger affects the entire continent, and it makes little sense for each nation to attempt to tackle it individually.

### **Democratic Senators Eyeing Tax Reform As Opportunity To Push Carbon Tax.**

The [New York Times](#) (8/17, Friedman) reports that two Senate Democrats, Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse and Brian Schatz, see "a sweeping overhaul of the tax code" as "the moment to broach the third rail of climate change policy: a carbon tax." While their plan "to level a \$49 per metric ton fee on greenhouse gas emissions is widely acknowledged as a long shot," the senators, "along with climate activists and a cadre of conservative supporters, insist the tax reform is a way to create bipartisan support." The Times adds that they "hope to have an ally in President Trump's economic adviser, Gary D. Cohn, who met in February with a prominent group of Republicans advocating a similar plan."

### **Paulsen, Brady Make Case For Tax Reform.**

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/17, Coolican) reports that Rep. Erik Paulsen appeared Thursday along with House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Rep. Kevin Brady at Best Buy headquarters in an effort to build support for tax reform, "one of his own top priorities as Republicans in Washington struggle for major accomplishments." Paulsen and Brady "said that they expect by the end of the year to send President Donald Trump a major tax bill that he will sign. It will lower tax rates for families and businesses, they said, and also make the tax code simpler."

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

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### **New York Times.**

**"The Justice Department Goes Fishing In DreamHost Case."** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/18, Board) writes that "you should be alarmed by the shockingly broad search warrant sought by the Justice Department, and approved by a judge in Washington, DC, last month, targeting DreamHost," an Internet hosting company that hosts a website that helped organize anti-Trump protests on Inauguration Day. As part of its continuing investigation into the protest, the Justice Department demanded that DreamHost turn over "all records or other information" relating to the site. The Times writes that if the company "turns over the requested data, any constitutional violation may not be revealed until years later, when a diligent defense lawyer is challenging a conviction in a single criminal case. That's a bad recipe for protecting all Americans' right to freely associate, and to be free of unreasonable government intrusion, in the digital age."

**"Reset The Clock For Malpractice Suits."** The [New York Times](#) (8/18, Board) editorializes that Gov. Andrew Cuomo should sign a measure passed by the New York state legislature extending the time cancer patients have to file malpractice suits to two-and-a-half years. Cuomo's aides "say only that he is evaluating the bill's details." Trial lawyers want the signed, and but "medical societies and hospitals, warning that their insurance premiums would rise and predicting some doctors would leave the state, want a veto."



## Washington Post.

***"It's Time For A Full And Fair Reckoning With Confederate Statues."*** The [Washington Post](#) (8/17) editorializes, "Let's be clear. No one is talking about ripping the country apart – unless it's the president himself. The tons of Confederate iconography installed long ago were put there as part of an ideological campaign whose goals were to glorify men and women who betrayed the United States in the cause of human slavery and to marginalize descendants of the enslaved. ... To hail the 'beauty' of the statues is to ignore all that, possibly for short-term political advantage."

***"Trump Needs To Stop Sabotaging Obamacare-- Before It's Too Late."*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/17) writes that a Congressional Budget Office report released Tuesday estimated that an Administration decision to pull federal subsidy payments to insurance companies – an option the White House has been weighing – would cause average premiums to jump by 20 percent next year and cost the government \$194 billion over a decade. The Post concludes that, rather than undermining insurance markets that the Affordable Care Act created, President Trump "should commit to keeping the subsidies going permanently, to enforcing the individual mandate and to working with Congress on a bipartisan bill that would bolster insurance markets."

***"Burma Covers Up Its Systematic Abuse Of A Minority Group."*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/17) writes that the Burmese government's recent investigation into complaints of human rights abuses by the government against its Rohingya Muslim minority – an investigation that found "no evidence of crimes" – "lacked credibility from the outset" and directly contradicted the findings of the United Nations' detailed report on the country's "systematic" human rights abuses. The Post concludes that the international community should "renew calls to allow a U.N. fact-finding mission to visit the country" and that Congress "should rethink the idea of expanding American military ties with Burma or, at the very least, consider imposing a vetting process and human rights benchmarks for any further military engagement."

## Wall Street Journal.

***"All The President's Advisers."*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/17) questions whether comments by President Trump's chief strategist Steve Bannon to American Prospect were daring White House chief of staff Kelly to fire him. The Journal adds that if Trump decides to keep Bannon, he will risk losing other aides.

***"This Times, Terror Hits Spain."*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/17) urges European governments to crack down on terror funding and increase coordination to stem the terror threat. To the Journal, the danger affects the entire continent, and it makes little sense for each nation to attempt to tackle it individually.

***"Refighting The Civil War."*** The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/17) says in an editorial that presidents need to choose their words carefully, and that there is no point to reopening a debate about the Civil War.

## Big Picture

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### Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

#### **Wall Street Journal:**

[Terror Hits Barcelona, Killing At Least 13](#)  
[AT&T-Time Warner Deal, An Early Trump Target, Reaches Advanced Stage](#)  
[Dow Falls 274 Points In Biggest Decline In Three Months](#)  
[Cisco's Feud With Former Star Executive Turns Personal—And Costly](#)

#### **New York Times:**

[Van Hits Pedestrians In Deadly Barcelona Terror Attack](#)  
[Defiant, Trump Laments Assault On Culture And Revives A Bogus Pershing Story](#)  
[Bannon And Dunford Remarks Muddle US Strategy For North Korea](#)  
[The World's Biggest Tech Companies Are No Longer Just American](#)  
[Top Two Officers On Navy Ship In Deadly Collision Off Japan To Be Relieved Of Duties](#)  
["Antifa" Grows As Left-Wing Faction Set To, Literally, Fight The Far Right](#)

#### **Washington Post:**

[Terror Strikes Barcelona](#)  
[Top Officials Move To Clarify US Policy On North Korea](#)  
[Uneasy Future For Arlington's Confederate Memorial](#)  
[Chief Economic Adviser Staying, White House Says](#)  
[President Defends Civil War Symbols](#)

**Financial Times:**

[Death Toll Rises To 13 After Barcelona Van Attack](#)  
[Uber Crafts Share Sale Plan To Prop Up Valuation](#)  
[Steve Bannon Stokes Tensions Tormenting Trump Administration](#)

**Washington Times:**

[Terrorist In Van Turns Sunny Spanish Afternoon Into Horrific Bloodbath](#)  
[Mainstream Conservative Groups Alarmed To Be Found On "Hate Map"](#)  
[Capitol's Confederate Cleansing Poses Difficult Decisions For Democrats](#)  
["Lay It On The Line": Judge In Tea Party Case Orders IRS To Disclose Employee Names, Reasons](#)  
[Pentagon Eyes Bitcoin Blockchain Technology As Cybersecurity Shield](#)  
[Mainstream Political Party Brazenly Lays Out Goal For "Real Islamic State" In Pakistan](#)

**Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:**

**ABC:** Barcelona Vehicle Terror Attack; Barcelona Vehicle Terror Attack-Suspects; NYC-Terrorism Precaution; Trump-White Nationalism; Trump White Nationalism-Congress; White Nationalism-WH Councils Shutdown; Coast Of Japan-US Navy Collision Investigation; Severe Weather; Iowa-Inmate Escape; New Mexico-Car Thefts; NYC-Suicide Attempt; Peanut Allergy Treatment; MLB-Cancer Survivor Pitch; Solar Eclipse.

**CBS:** Barcelona Vehicle Terror Attack; Vehicle Terror Attacks; Barcelona Vehicle Terror Attack-Expert Comment; Trump-White Nationalism; White Nationalism-Expert Comment; White Nationalism-Confederate Monuments; Coast Of Japan-US Navy Collision Investigation; Solar Eclipse; MLB-Cancer Survivor Pitch.

**NBC:** Barcelona Vehicle Terror Attack; Barcelona Vehicle Terror Attack-Expert Comment; Trump-White Nationalism; Trump White Nationalism-Critics; White Nationalism-Internet; White Nationalism-Confederate Monuments; Coast Of Japan-US Navy Collision Investigation; Minneapolis-Highway Fire; Wall Street News; Solar Eclipse; MLB-Cancer Survivor Pitch; Lottery Jackpot; Minnesota-Retired Judge Charity.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Barcelona Vehicle Terror Attack – 16 minutes, 30 seconds  
Trump White Nationalism-Critics – 5 minutes, 35 seconds  
Trump-White Nationalism – 5 minutes, 30 seconds  
White Nationalism-Confederate Monuments – 4 minutes, 55 seconds  
Coast Of Japan-US Navy Collision Investigation – 4 minutes, 5 seconds

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** Barcelona Vehicle Terror Attacks; Trump White Nationalism-Critics; Trump-White Nationalism; Wall Street News.

**CBS:** Barcelona Vehicle Terror Attacks; Trump-White Nationalism; Trump White Nationalism-Critics; Hawaii-Army Black Hawk Crash; Coast Of Japan-US Navy Collision Investigation; McDonald-iPhone Leak; Wall Street News.

**FOX:** Barcelona Vehicle Terror Attacks.

**NPR:** Barcelona Vehicle Terror Attacks; White Nationalism-US Colleges; North Korea Threats; Wall Street News.

## **Washington Schedule**

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### **Today's Events In Washington.**

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a briefing with the National Security Council.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President in a briefing with the National Security Council.

**US Senate:** 10:00 AM Senate convenes for pro forma session  
On recess until 5 September.

**US House:** On recess until 5 September.

**Other:** No notable event scheduled.

## Last Laughs

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### Late Night Political Humor.

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "If we're going to start taking down every monument that pays tribute to racists, we should probably take down every building with the name 'Trump' on it, you know?"

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "They did a survey, an international survey. Most countries now have more confidence in Vladimir Putin than Donald Trump. Out of 37 countries, 22 of them said they have more faith in Putin. Other countries are now watching Rocky IV and hoping Drago wins."

**Stephen Colbert:** "So removing Confederate statutes isn't about denying that slavery happened. It's about not celebrating the people who fought to keep it going. That's why we remember the Titanic, but we don't erect monuments to the iceberg. Although, thanks to Donald Trump pulling out of the Paris Climate Accords, soon, all icebergs will need a memorial."

**James Corden:** "Trump thinks these 100-year-old Confederate monuments are 'beautiful,' which is weird. Usually Trump doesn't call anything beautiful if it's over 30 years old."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "The President tweeted that removing Confederate statues takes beauty out of our parks that can never be replaced. Then he said, 'Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go cut down a bunch of trees and build a hotel and golf course.'"

**Seth Meyers:** "In a new interview, Kim Kardashian revealed that she did karaoke with former President Obama. Said Obama, 'That was just the national anthem.'"

**Seth Meyers:** "A new study by economists found that income inequality in Russia is reaching similar levels to that of the United States. Some Russians are so poor they're forced to live inside each other."

**Seth Meyers:** "So Trump's staff isn't upset he's a racist; they're upset we found out about it."

**Seth Meyers:** "According to New York Times, Ivanka and Kushner urged Trump to take a more moderate stance, but as with so many other critical moments in Trump's presidency, the two were on vacation, this time in Vermont. Oh, that is Bernie Sanders' worst nightmare, his home state infiltrated by a millionaire and a billionaire."

**Conan O'Brien:** "In a tweet this morning, President Trump called Confederate statues beautiful. People were shocked because it's the first time Trump has complimented anything that's over 40 years old."

**Conan O'Brien:** "President Trump said that North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un's choice to not attack Guam was a wise and well-reasoned decision. And Trump said, 'Someday I'm going to make one of those.'"

**Conan O'Brien:** "Hillary Clinton is coming out with a book called 'What Happened.' Out of habit, Bill Clinton immediately came out with his own book called 'Baby, I Can Explain.'"

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